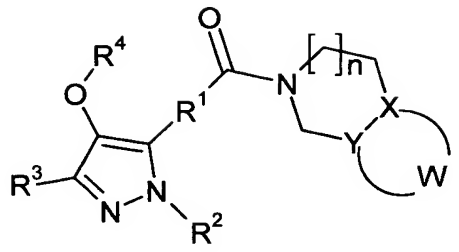
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof, wherein:

W-X-Y defines a five or six-membered partially saturated or aromatic ring containing 0 to 3 nitrogen atoms wherein X is CH or N and Y is CH or, when X is CH, may also be N; said ring being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, -CN, -COR^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$SO_2NR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$, -OR^5, OR^{11}, -NR^5R^5, -(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-NR^5R^5, R^7, R^{11}, or CF_3;

R^1 is absent or is C_1-C_6 alkylene;

R^2 is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 alkenyl, C_3-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkenyl, phenyl, benzyl, R^8 or R^9, said C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, phenyl and benzyl being optionally substituted by halo, -OR^5, -OR^{10}, -CN, -CO_2R^7, -$OCONR^5R^5$, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$C(=NR^5)NR^5OR^5$, -$CONR^5NR^5R^5$, -NR^6R^6, -NR^5R^{10}, -NR^5COR^5, -NR^5COR^8, -NR^5COR^{10}, -$NR^5CO_2R^5$, -$NR^5CONR^5R^5$, -$SO_2NR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2NR^5R^5$, R^8 or R^9;

R^3 is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, halo, -CN, -OR^7, -CO_2R^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, R^8 or R^9, said C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, phenyl and benzyl being optionally substituted by halo, -CN, -OR^5, -CO_2R^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$OCONR^5R^5$, -$NR^5CO_2R^5$, -NR^6R^6, -NR^5COR^5, -$SO_2NR^5R^5$, -$NR^5CONR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$, R^8 or R^9;

R^4 is phenyl, naphthyl or pyridyl, each being optionally substituted by R^8, halo, -CN, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 haloalkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, -$CONR^5R^5$, OR^{11}, So_xR^6, O-(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-$CONR^5R^5$, O-(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-NR^5R^5, or O-(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-OR^6;

each R^5 is independently either H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or, when two R^5 groups are attached to the same nitrogen atom, those two groups taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl or morpholinyl, said azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl and morpholinyl being optionally substituted by C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

each R^6 is independently either H, C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

R^7 is C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

R^8 is a five or six-membered, aromatic heterocyclic group containing (i) from 1 to 4 nitrogen heteroatom(s) or (ii) 1 or 2 nitrogen heteroatom(s) and 1 oxygen or 1 sulphur heteroatom or (iii) 1 or 2 oxygen or sulphur heteroatom(s), said heterocyclic group being optionally substituted by halo, oxo, -CN, -COR^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$SO_2NR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$, -OR^5, -NR^5R^5, -(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-NR^5R^5, C_1-C_6 alkyl, fluoro(C_1-C_6)alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

R^9 is a four to seven-membered, saturated or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group containing (i) 1 or 2 nitrogen heteroatom(s) or (ii) 1 nitrogen heteroatom and 1 oxygen or 1 sulphur heteroatom or (iii) 1 oxygen or sulphur heteroatom, said heterocyclic group being optionally substituted by oxo, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, -SO_2R^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$COOR^5$, -CO-(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-OR^5 or -COR^5 and optionally substituted on a carbon atom which is not adjacent to a heteroatom by halo, -OR^5, -NR^5R^5, -NR^5COR^5, -NR^5COOR^5, -$NR^5CONR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$ or -CN;

R^{10} is C_1-C_6 alkyl substituted by R^8, R^9, -OR^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -NR^5COR^5 or -NR^5R^5;

R^{11} is phenyl optionally substituted by halo, -CN, -COR^5, -$CONR^5R^5$, -$SO_2NR^5R^5$, -$NR^5SO_2R^5$, -OR^5, -NR^5R^5, -(C_1-C_6 alkylene)-NR^5R^5, C_1-C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl; and

x and n are independently 0, 1 or 2.

2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

3. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents.

4. A compound according to claim 1 for use as a medicament.

5. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3 for use as a medicament.

6. A compound according to claim 1 for use as a reverse transcriptase inhibitor or modulator.

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3 for use as a reverse transcriptase inhibitor or modulator.

8. A compound according to claim 1 for use in the treatment of an HIV or genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

9. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3 for use in the treatment of an HIV or genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

10. A method for inhibiting or modulating HIV reverse transcriptase activity in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. A method for inhibiting or modulating HIV reverse transcriptase activity in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3.

12. A method for treating an HIV or genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

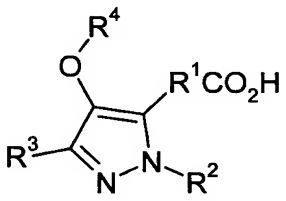
13. A method for treating an HIV or genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3.

14. A method of treating an HIV or a genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

15. A method of treating an HIV or a genetically-related retroviral infection, or a resulting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 or 3.

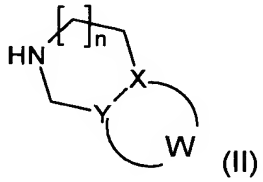
16. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1, which comprises:

(A) reacting an acid of formula (III)



(III)

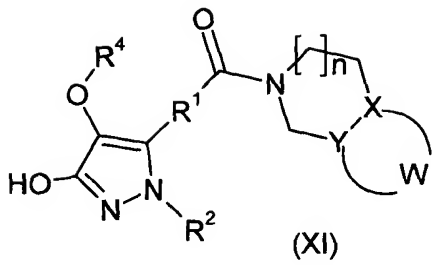
with an amine of formula (II)



(II)

under acid/amine coupling conditions;

(B) preparing a compound of formula (I) in which R^3 is halo, halogenating a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

(C) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); or

(D) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(E) optionally converting a compound of formula (I) prepared by any one of steps (A) to (D) into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or derivative thereof.